

A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

Day Care for Children

FOR the purpose of requesting the State Department of Employment and Social Services to develop and recommend a statewide plan for adequate day care for children.

WHEREAS, As many as 25,000 children in the State are in need of and eligible for public pre-school day care, while the State is now funding care for only 4,600 children; and

WHEREAS, The State now provides no funding for the group care of school-aged 6-12-year-old children when school is not in session and when their parents are working, while such lack of supervision is directly related to juvenile truancy, delinquency, and crime; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Employment and Social Services has established a moratorium on new State-operated day care centers, while the economic conditions of inner city neighborhoods, where 60 percent of Baltimore's unmet day care demand among low-income children is found, preclude the expansion of alternative forms of subsidized group day care; and

WHEREAS, The current rates the State is now using to purchase day care from family day care mothers are so unrealistically low as to economically strain those mothers from whom care is now purchased and to discourage additional mothers from providing purchased care; and

WHEREAS, Title XX of the Social Security Act has relaxed federally required standards for day care service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State Department of Employment and Social Services is requested to develop a statewide plan for adequate day care for children. In developing the plan, the Department shall consider the following elements:

(1) Sufficient day care to meet the needs of those 3-5-year-old children who are eligible for such service under Title IV A of the Federal Social Security Act;

(2) Day care for Title IV A eligible school-aged children 6-12 years of age;

(3) Additional State-operated day care centers especially in cases where alternative forms of expanded group care are unfeasible;